



## **HAWAII STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

STATE OF HAWAII  
STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 21, 2008

Contact: Representative K. Mark Takai

Phone: (808) 586-8455

### **FALLEN WAR HEROES TO BE HONORED BY LEGISLATURE 31 families to receive Hawaii Medal of Honor at a joint legislative session**

**Honolulu** - The Hawaii State Senate and Hawaii State House of Representatives will convene in a special joint session to recognize military service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice. The families of these fallen service members will all receive the Hawaii Medal of Honor on behalf of their loved ones.

The Special Joint Session of the Legislature is scheduled for Tuesday, March 25, 2008 at 2 p.m. in the House Chambers.

In 2005, the Legislature passed House Bill 8, which created the Hawaii Medal of Honor (HMOH). This special medal is awarded on behalf of the people of the State of Hawaii to an individual who was killed in action while serving our country as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Recipients of the medal include members of the United Armed Forces, the United States Military Reserves, and the Hawaii National Guard, who were residents of the State of Hawaii, attended an educational institution in Hawaii, or were stationed in Hawaii by order of the United States Department of Defense.

As of January 31, 2008, Hawaii has lost 217 service members with Hawaii ties, who have sacrificed their lives while in the line of duty. A listing of those service members who will be recipients of the HMOH is attached.

“The effort to identify those eligible for the medal has taken many months,” said Rep. K. Mark Takai. “Working with all the branches of the military, we worked extremely hard to identify each servicemember who sacrificed their lives,” Takai said.

The primary next of kin and their families for each servicemember has been invited to attend. People from across Hawaii and the U.S. Mainland, from as far away as New York and Florida, are expected to attend.

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“We are truly grateful for the sacrifices that these families have made,” Takai said. “This medal is just a small token of our utmost appreciation of those service members who paid the ultimate sacrifice. It tells these families that we also grieve for their loss,” Takai added.

The Joint Session will be broadcast live throughout the state via public access television. Parking in the basement of the State Capitol will be restricted to the honorees and invited guests.

Media Credentials will be coordinated by Representative K. Mark Takai. Those media personnel interested in attending the ceremony must receive credentials prior to the ceremony. Contact Lisa Vargas at (808) 586-8455 or at [reptakai@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:reptakai@capitol.hawaii.gov).

Attachments: Floor Remarks by Rep. K. Mark Takai on February 4, 2008  
List of Service Members enrolled into the HMOH Roll

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Floor Remarks for HCR61  
February 4, 2008  
Representative K. Mark Takai

Mr. Speaker, I speak in strong support of this measure.

It has almost been five years since the War on Terrorism began. While there continues to be much debate for and against this war, there is no debate about the tremendous sacrifices made by our service members and their families. Between March 29, 2003 and January 31, 2008, we in Hawaii have lost 219 servicemembers, who have sacrificed their lives while in the line of duty. We lost a 31 servicemembers during the past year. To pay a special tribute to these heroes and to their families, we passed House Bill 8 in 2005, which became Act 21. House Bill 8 created the Hawaii Medal of Honor.

This special medal is awarded on behalf of the people of the State of Hawaii to an individual who has been killed in action while serving our country as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Recipients of the Hawaii Medal of Honor include members of the United States Armed Forces, the United States military reserves, and the Hawaii National Guard, who were residents of the State of Hawaii, attended an educational institution in Hawaii, or was stationed in Hawaii by order of the United States Department of Defense.

The Hawaii Medal of Honor will be awarded to family representatives of these men and women at a ceremony held during a joint session of this Legislature on Tuesday, March 25, 2008 at 2 p.m. in this chamber. Families have been invited from towns like Middlefield, Massachusetts and Kingston Springs, Tennessee to as far as the Philippines and Morocco to attend this ceremony.

Three years ago while serving on active duty, I had the responsibility of serving as the Casualty Assistance Officer for the family of Sergeant Deyson Cariaga, the Hawaii Army National Guard's only casualty from Hawaii during the recent deployment of the 29<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team. That duty, the duty as Casualty Assistance Officer, was my most difficult challenge in my entire National Guard career. The Cariaga Family and Mrs. Theresa Inouye, his mother in particular, continue to grieve for their loss. I don't wish what they have experienced and continue to experience on any family. This resolution and the actions that we have and will take are to honor soldiers, like Sergeant Cariaga, and parents like Theresa Inouye.

In the past five years, the War against Terrorism has changed our world and our lives in a profound way. Ultimately, it's not about politics, it's not about money, and it's not even about winning. It's all about the families and their loved ones and what these brave men and women sacrificed to our country.

Thank you.

## HAWAII MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

**This list was compiled by Rep. K. Mark Takai and is current as of January 31, 2008. The order of listing is by date of death. Please contact Lisa Vargas from Rep. Takai's office for additional information on the service members identified below. She can be reached at (808) 586-8455 or at reptakai@capitol.hawaii.gov.**

United States Air Force Airman First Class Carl Jerome Ware, Jr.  
United States Navy Lieutenant Commander Morgan C. Tulang  
United States Army Sergeant Forrest D. Cauthorn  
United States Army Private First Class Jay S. Cajimat  
United States Marine Corps Major Douglas A. Zembiec  
United States Army Corporal Casey P. Zylman  
United States Army First Lieutenant Keith N. Heidtman  
United States Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Theodore U. Church  
United States Army Sergeant Richard V. Correa  
United States Air Force Senior Airman William N. Newman  
United States Army Specialist Farid Elazzouzi  
United States Army Sergeant Derek T. Roberts  
United States Army Specialist Val J. Borm  
United States Army First Lieutenant Frank B. Walkup IV  
United States Army Sergeant Michael J. Montpetit  
United States Marine Corps Lance Corporal Robert A. Lynch  
United States Army Specialist Tyler R. Seideman  
United States Army Specialist Jessy G. Pollard  
United States Army Specialist Michael A. Hook  
United States Army Corporal Nathan C. Hubbard  
United States Army Corporal Joshua S. Harmon  
United States Army Corporal Phillip J. Brodnick  
United States Army Corporal Jeremy P. Bouffard  
United States Army Sergeant Garrett I. McLead  
United States Army Staff Sergeant Jason L. Paton  
United States Army Captain Derek A. Dobogai  
United States Army Sergeant Alexander U. Galalac  
United States Navy Petty Officer Third Class Mark R. Cannon  
United States Army Private First Class Casey P. Mason  
United States Navy Petty Officer First Class Victor W. Jeffries  
United States Army Specialist Jon M. Schoolcraft III

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